

U.S. ARMY/
DOUBLE AGENT

SAWYER: It is a spy story worthy of John Le Carre. A U.S. spy goes bad, sells out to the Soviet Union, and blows the cover of an American double agent who had apparently infiltrated the KGB itself, but it is not a novel. Richard Craig Smith, a former Army counterintelligence agent, has been charged with selling the name of a fellow spy to Moscow, but it is not known what became of that agent, known only as 'Royal Miter.' We asked Maria Shriver to trace his roots in his hometown of Salt Lake City, and she joins us this morning. Good morning, Maria.

SHRIVER: Good morning, Diane. Craig Smith is Utah's first spy, and his arrest came as a big surprise to this Mormon state. The son of a Mormon bishop and the father of four children, he was a faithful church-goer who neither drank nor smoked and gave 10 percent of his earnings to the church. Nobody thought he was the kind of man who would sell his country's secrets to the Russians. Many people here in Salt Lake City knew Craig Smith was a spy. After he grew up and went to school here he went off and joined the Army intelligence. When he returned he started a video business, promoting Utah to Japanese investors. SCOTT MATHESON (Utah Governor on Smith's promotion tape): It is my pleasure to provide you with a look at a very exciting area, the state of Utah.

SHRIVER: But it was his spy tales that made him well known. CARMEN BORROWUM (Neighbor): We just asked him if the spy novels were fairly true-to-life, and he said, 'More so than most people would care to know.'

SHRIVER: His company went bankrupt and he lost his home. Yet he continued to make trips to Japan and it was there the government says he took \$11,000 from the KGB for blowing the cover of an American double agent operation. Yet Craig Smith continued to have money problems. Three months ago he moved himself and his family into his parent's home in Bellview, Wash. KENT SMITH (Friend): I know the guy so well and I feel so badly for him because he's had some financial duress and backed himself in the corner and couldn't get out.

SHRIVER: This city is abuzz with memories of how Craig Smith was always talking about putting some big money deal together. Dynamic, outgoing, enthusiastic, hard-working, but seemingly always a step away from making his fortune. In Bellview, Wash., his mother said, 'I know he was a good son, and he is still a good son.' Diane?

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SAWYER: Thank you, Maria. Smith is the fifth American arrested this year on charges of espionage. U.S. agents say this case, however, may hurt more than the others because the information sold endangers the safety of a number of U.S. double agents. For a perspective on the damage, we asked former CIA Director Adm. Stansfield Turner to join us from Dallas this morning. Adm. Turner, thanks to you for coming in. What do you think when you read this in the newspaper? TURNER: Well, you have to think that Craig Smith is a dangerous spy because he's what we call a mole. He's somebody inside our own intelligence organization burrowing around and getting information for the Soviets. That uncovers our other intelligence operations and exposes the lives of agents and such forth. On the other hand, Craig Smith was part of Army intelligence, not the real core of our human intelligence activities, the CIA.

SAWYER: Eleven thousand dollars, though, to sell out for \$11,000? TURNER: Terrible.

SAWYER: How can those of you who recruit agents for the United States, how can you begin to anticipate which people will sell out and which ones won't? TURNER: Well, to begin with, you have to screen people very carefully when they come into intelligence, then you have to monitor them all along the line and watch for abnormal behavior. It's a lot more difficult with somebody like Craig Smith, who left the Army intelligence and went out into the civilian world because in our country we don't believe in following and trailing and surveilling people unless there's some cause for that, some indication of abnormal behavior.

SAWYER: One thinks, though, of Lenin's maxim that the capitalist nations will argue over the price of the rope with which they hang themselves. Is money the predominant reason that American agents turn, or it's not ideology, I assume? TURNER: Well, it's not ideology as much as it was in the 1930s and '40s, perhaps, when communism still had some ideological appeal around the world. That's really dropping off. Money is one, but there's been another case of people wanting to spy just for the kicks, just for the fun of it. We had two young boys in California a number of years ago named Boyce and Lee, and the best analysis of why they did it is they were sort of bored with life and they wanted to do something exciting, and that's very disturbing.

SAWYER: How worried are you about the respective comparisons of American and U.S. spy operations in each other's countries? It seems to me that we're forever reading about the apprehension of a KGB agent in the United States. Their numbers are enormous, aren't they?

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TURNER: Well, you know, the KGB really makes a tremendous effort at human intelligence, and so when we catch them that indicates that we've got good counterintelligence. So there are two sides to this story. At the same time, from my observation of these people we catch, they aren't getting that much more information out of us than I think we're getting out of them. Their human intelligence operations are bigger than ours. I think ours are probably a little more astute. So I'm not too worried about the balance of activity here.

SAWYER: And the electronic abilities? Ours are better?
TURNER: Ours are much better than theirs. When you come to collecting intelligence, you collect it by human spies that we've been talking about, but you also collect it by satellites, by electronic surveillance systems and such. Because American technology is so far ahead of Soviet technology, we're way ahead of them there.

SAWYER: Admiral... TURNER: And finally, we're ahead of them on interpreting the information you get from either human spies or electronic gadgets.

SAWYER: Adm. Turner, our thanks to you. TURNER: Thank you.